Inside Wallops

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Goddard Space Flight Center
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NASA and Air Force Forge Ahead With Reusable Launch Technology

Air Force and NASA officials recently agreed with the primary recommendation of a 120-day study team that the Air Force and NASA should continue to assess building a joint Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV) demonstrator.

After scrutinizing shared technologies and mutual requirements for space access, the study team's top recommendation to the Air Force and NASA was that the two organizations should work together to assess building

Artist's Concept

a joint operations demonstrator vehicle. The study also concludes this demonstrator could eventually lead to a follow-on cargo vehicle for both the Air Force and NASA, as well as to a crewed vehicle for NASA.

NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe; Air Force Undersecretary and Director of the National Reconnaissance Office Peter B. Teets; and General Ed Eberhart, Commander of US SPACECOM and NORAD, discussed the 120-day RLV study's findings and recommendations at a Senior Space Partnership Council meeting held recently in Colorado Springs, Colo., and agreed in principle with the study's recommendations.

Another significant development of the meeting was a mutual agreement by the principals to continue a cadre of experienced Air Force people to work with NASA to proceed with joint study efforts, which include refining concepts of operations, requirements, figures of merit, and design reference missions.

These efforts would support the fielding of a joint operations demonstrator vehicle as well as follow-on vehicles, which may evolve from that effort.

Officials from both organizations said they would like to move forward with an integrated technology planning effort that would address the requirements of both agencies.

"We see the Space Launch Initiative as a team effort to develop alternative reusable space launch systems that would enhance national security and increase the safety and reliability of our space exploration efforts," said NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe.

"The findings of this study indicate that there are many areas where we can save taxpayer money by sharing technologies and integrating our planning efforts."

Other study highlights include the following:

* Development funding would be necessary in the out-years to support a joint operations demonstrator vehicle

* There is a documented need for a new RLV system that supports commercial launch leadership.

* RLV is identified as having the potential to contribute to a transformational warfighting capability and to addressing NASA's need for a Space Shuttle replacement.

* Potential RLV commonality exists between NASA and DoD in areas like technology development, cargo lift requirements and launch architecture elements. A demonstrator could provide DoD early limited operational capability and provide design heritage for an operational system.

"This study, its recommendations, and our subsequent agreement shows we believe there is significant potential to be gained from a combined Air Force/ NASA RLV effort," said Teets. "By combining strategies, harmonizing technologies and eliminating duplication of effort, we believe we are on a watershed course guided by sound business principles and a heartfelt desire to meet the future national security challenges of our nation."

Wallops Employees on the Road

Allison Schauer, Science & Engineering Services, Inc., participated in a Career Day at Pemberton Elementary School, Salisbury, Md., on June 3.

Debbie Fairbrother, NASA Balloon Program Office, spoke to three classes at the Na'alehu School in Hawaii as part of their Career Fair Day on June 3.

Wallops Shorts…….

Sounding Rocket Launches

Two NASA Terrier-Orion sounding rockets were launched approximately 30 minutes apart from the White Sands Missile Range, N.M., on June 5. The payloads were geospace science experiments to return samples of mesospheric and lower thermospheric air to Earth for analysis. Dr. Peter Erdman, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, was the principal investigator for both payloads that were recovered.

A NASA Improved Orion sounding rocket was successfully launched from Wallops Island on June 6. The payload consisted of experiments from four high schools that were selected through NASA's Student Involvement Program (NSIP). Lynn Marra, NASA Headquarters is the NSIP Program Manager. The payload was recovered from the ocean and returned to Wallops.

Photo by D. Fairbrother

Carrier Balloon Being Inflated

Balloon Launch

A successful stratospheric balloon deployment and inflation of a prototype Mars balloon was conducted June 5 from Hawaii.

The balloon, which is a prototype of the Wallops designed Ultra-Long Duration Balloon, was successfully deployed from a carrier balloon that reached stable float altitude of approximately 104,992 feet (32 kilometers). All of the inflation gas was injected into the balloon as planned and a stable descent under a parachute was achieved. The balloon, parachute and payload were recovered.

This marks the first successful stratospheric deployment and inflation of a Mars class balloon.

Students Investigate Trash

On April 25, 2002, NASA, NOAA and the Navy hosted approximately 90 students during Take Our Daughters To Work Day at Wallops. Students participating in the Environmental Track morning session focused on the recycling process. During one exercise, the students sorted a randomly selected bag of trash to see what people were actually throwing out.

Photo by Donna Hughes.

(left to right) Ashley Reynolds, Nica Basuel and Gabrielle Lang sort through a trash bags.

The 16 pound bag of trash contained a half pound of aluminum (21 cans), a half pound of plastic bags, three pounds of white paper (3 desk top boxes), 10 pounds of #1 plastic (11 plastic bottles partially full), a half pound of #5 plastic, one-quarter pound of #6 plastic, one-quarter pound of colored paper, a half pound of cardboard boxes, and a half pound of food waste.

The students discovered that almost everything could have been recycled and that Wallops Flight Facility recycles many of the items found in the trash.

Broken down cardboard boxes can be placed in the cardboard dumpsters located at the Post Office, (Building E-7), and behind Receiving, (Building F-19). The housekeeping staff will recycle boxes that are marked "trash" and placed next to wastepaper cans. White paper can be placed in your desktop recycling bin. Clean, empty aluminum cans can be placed in can collection bins located in each building. Packaging peanuts and bubble wrap can be turned in to shipping, (Building D-49). Scrap metal can be placed in dumpsters located in the salvage yard and behind Building F-10. Unbroken wooden pallets can be stacked in the salvage yard. If you need additional recycling containers in your area, contact Freda Johnson on x1466.

Solid waste containers have been centrally located on the Facility. Containers are located at the following sites:

South end	Building E-2
North end	Building E-5
West end	Building F-16
East end	Building N-162
West end	Building X-55
East end	Building F-3
East end	Building R-1
North end	Building R-20
East end	Building R-30
East end	Building U-40
South end	Building U-70
West end	Building V-24

Wallops does not accept household waste (trash brought from home) in any of its dumpsters. Other items which cannot be thrown in the trash include: non-food liquids, batteries, florescent light bulbs, solvent or oily rags, pressurized gas cylinders, damaged spray cans, asbestos, construction and demolition materials, pesticides or other hazardous materials. If you need to dispose of any of these items or have questions concerning other items for disposal, contact the Environmental Office on x1718.

Currently a joint committee is exploring new avenues for recycling at Wallops. If you have any ideas, contact Marianne Simko on x2127.

The Importance of Fathers in the Father and Child Reunion

Guest Speaker: Dr. Warren Farrell

Tuesday, June 18, 2002
10 a.m. to noon
Building D10 (Gym)

Dr. Warren Farrell's writings are known for presenting profound and counterintuitive findings that are male and female positive.

Dr. Farrell helps us understand exactly what's missing when dad's missing — and what needs to be done legally, psychologically and politically to reunite children with their dads.

For more information contact Lisa Johnson on x1412.

U.S. Savings Bonds Campaign

Goddard's annual U.S. Savings Bonds Campaign will run through June 14, 2002. The theme for this year is "SAVE FOR YOUR FUTURE".

Bonds may not be the most exciting investment one can make, but they are a steady performer that won't lose money.

Savings bonds are affordable because they come in a variety of denominations and payroll allotment amounts are flexible.

In 2001, savings bonds sales totaled $11 billion.

For more information contact Sherry Kleckner on x1204.

Mark your calendar --

Wallops Prayer Club
Noon, June 12
Building F-6, Room 110
Guest Speaker, Debbie Byrd

Tailgate Sale
11:30 a.m., June 12
Flag Court Parking Lot
If it rains, the event will be held in the pavilion between F-10 and the softball fields.

Savings Bond Campaign Ends June 14.

June 16 is Father's Day!

June 22 is Flight Day at the NASA Visitor Center. Call (757) 824-2298 for events planned during the day.

Eastern Shore Blood Bank Blood Drive will be July 9. Contact Linda Layton, x1561 for further information.

Thrift Savings Plan Open Season ends July 15.

Bus Trip to Atlantic City on July 20 sponsored by the Wallops Black History Club. Call Dave Smith, x1316 for further info.

For Rent

Apartment on Chincoteague, spacious 2 bedroom, $450 a month + electricity. Contact Jerry Doyon after 5 p.m. (757) 336-0065.

House located in the Historic Town of Accomac, Va. at 23410 Front St. It may be rented as a residence and/or office. It has a high efficiency heating and a/c system. $525 per month (unfurnished) or $575 (furnished). Call (757) 623-8855 or e.mail: kmaier@pinn.net

Ocean Pines Year-Round Lease. Unfurnished three bedroom, two bath rancher; built in 1997; open kitchen with counter bar; dining area; living room with gas fireplace; central air conditioning; available immediately; four miles west of Ocean City. Pool, tennis, golf community. Call Sheila Hodges (301) 775-1968 or (410) 208-3111.

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